

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 stand rejected in the Office Action dated December 7, 2007. In that Office Action, claims 1-18 are rejected on the following grounds: i) claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toba (US Patent No. 6,907,276, hereinafter "Toba"); ii) claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Toba in view of Nishiyama et al (US Patent No. 5,710,576, hereinafter "Nishiyama"); and iii) claims 9, 10, 13, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Toba in view of Matsumoto et al (US Published Application No. 2002/0119768, hereinafter "Matsumoto"). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15-18, and added new dependent claim 19 (dependent on claim 1).

Rejection of Claims 11 and 12 as Anticipated By Toba

The rejection of claims 11 and 12 as anticipated by Toba are unsupportable in view of the current amendments to claim 11. Claim 12 depends from claim 11. As amended, claim 11 now recites that the main display unit is "disposed in an outside surface of said first housing which is opposite to an inside surface of said first housing that faces said second housing in a closed state of said first and second housings." The Office Action recognizes that Toba fails to disclose this aspect of claim 11 in acknowledging that "Toba does not explicitly teach about a main display unit that is visible to a user in at least a closed state of a portable terminal." Office Action at 4. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 11 and 12 cannot be anticipated by Toba.

Claims 11 and 12 are also not rendered obvious over Toba in combination with Nishiyama or Matsumoto. Neither Nishiyama nor Matsumoto disclose the main display unit being "disposed in an outside surface of said first housing which is opposite to an inside surface of said first housing that faces said second housing in a closed state of said first and second housings." Moreover, claims 11 and 12 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited

prior art inasmuch as the cited prior art fails to disclose "changing a non-input screen of said main display unit having an item selected thereon to an input screen corresponding to said selected item when either of said first and second housings is opened from said closed state." For this aspect, the Office Action incorrectly relies on Toba. While Toba discloses detecting a change in state from the closed to open state, Toba does not change, in response to a change in that state (open to closed or closed to open), a non-input screen **of said main display** to an input screen corresponding to said selected item on the **same main display**. Rather, Toba discloses information is displayed on either the external display 11 or the main display 5. In the case where the terminal in Toba is opened, information is displayed on the main display and not on the external display. There is no suggestion or teaching in Toba (including in the portions of Toba cited by the Examiner in the Office Action) that the non-input screen of the **main display** is switched to an input screen **on the same main display** that corresponds to the item displayed on the main display in the closed state by simply opening the housings (the portable terminal) from the closed state. Neither Nishiyama nor Matsumoto teach this claimed aspect. Thus, claims 11 and 12 are not anticipated nor rendered obvious on this separate ground.

Rejection of Remaining Claims as Obvious

Like with claim 11, the remaining independent claims now positively recite that the main display unit is disposed in an outside surface of the first housing which is opposite to an inside surface of the first housing that faces the second housing in the closed state, and the main display is visible to a user in at least the closed state. In addition, if the open state is detected after the non-input screen of an item to be displayed on the main display unit that is disposed in the outside surface of the first housing in the closed state, the control unit changes the non-input screen to an input screen enabling a user to use the input unit. The claims also require that the non-input screen of the main display is switched to an input screen on the same main display that

corresponds to the item displayed on the main display in the closed state by simply opening the housings (the portable terminal) from the closed state. For example, claim 1 now recites, in part "wherein said first housing is openably and closably connected to said second housing, wherein said main display unit is disposed in an outside surface of said first housing which is opposite to an inside surface of said first housing that faces said second housing in said closed state, and is visible to a user in at least said closed state of said portable terminal, and wherein, when said detecting unit detects opening of either of said first and second housings, said control unit changes a non-input screen of an item to be displayed **on said main display unit** in the closed state to an input screen **corresponding to said item.**" (emphases added).

In this claimed configuration, because the main display unit is disposed on the outside surface of the first housing, the screen of the main display is continuously visible even if the portable terminal is placed in the open state from the closed state. Moreover, because the non-input screen is displayed on the main display unit that is disposed in the outside surface of the first housing in the closed state, it is possible to smoothly switch the non-input screen to the input screen without giving an unnatural feeling to a user while the user views the (single) main display unit by only placing the portable terminal in the open state from the closed state. More specifically, the non-input screen is switched to the input screen corresponding to the item displayed on the main display in the closed state by simply opening the housings (the portable terminal) from the closed state.

On the other hand, in the case of the portable terminal disclosed in Toba (US 6,907,276 B2), the main display unit 5 is disposed on the inside surface of the first housing 3 that faces, in the closed state, the second housing 4 including the keys (input unit) 8. An external display 11 is disposed in the outside surface of the first housing 3 which is opposite to the inside surface of the first housing 3, and information is displayed on the main display unit 5, which is

provided separately from the external display 11, when the portable terminal is placed in the open state from the closed state in which information is displayed on the external display 11. Moreover, in the open state, no information is displayed on the external display 11 which has been displaying information in the closed state.

Accordingly, in Toba, a user must move between screens to track information that may have been previously displayed on one of the external display 11 and the main display unit 5. For example, in Toba, the display of information is switched from the external display 11 to the main display unit 5 when the portable terminal is placed in the open state from the closed state.

In contrast, in the case of the claimed portable terminal, the main display unit is disposed on the outside surface of the first housing which is opposite to an inside surface of the first housing that faces the second housing in the closed state, and the (single) main display continuously displays information even when the portable terminal is placed in the open state from the closed state; therefore, a user will be able to continue to retrieve information from the same (single) main display. As a result, a user's information recognition can be improved.

As stated above, because the claimed portable terminal has a main display unit, which displays information in both closed and open states, is disposed in the outside surface of the first housing which is opposite to an inside surface of the first housing that faces the second housing in the closed state, which is not disclosed in Toba, the present invention could not have been anticipated by Toba or rendered obvious by Toba in combination with the other cited references. The claimed device also requires that the non-input screen of the main display is switched to an input screen on the same main display that corresponds to the item displayed on the main display in the closed state by simply opening the housings (the portable terminal) from

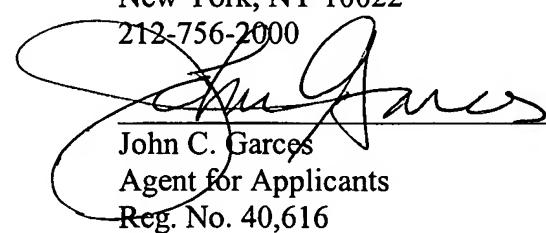
the closed state. As stated in connection with claims 11 and 12, none of cited references disclose this claimed aspect.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-18 are patentable over the cited prior art. New claim 19 is dependent on claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 848075-0057.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: